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NEW PROGRESS  
OF  
SURGERY IN FRANCE;  
OR  
PHENOMENA  
IN THE  
*ANIMAL KINGDOM.*

PUBLISHED BY COMMAND OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

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TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF IMBERT DELONNES, M. D.  
BY T. CHAVERNAC, SURGEON.

EMBELLISHED WITH VERY CURIOUS PLATES BY W. NUTTER.

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## REFERENCES.

AAAAAA, Interior view of a Sarcocoe of 28lb. weight : the first of the kind ever mentioned in the Annals of Medicine.

This malady that had been deemed incurable, was cured on the 27th Fructidor, An. VII. (13th September 1797,) by means of a Chirurgical operation, performed by Citizen IMBERT DELONNES. The operation lasted two hours and an half, including four intervals which were indispensable for the patient (Charles Delacroix, aged 58) to support it.

B B B B B, Portions of the Tumour that were gangrened.

C C C C, Deferent Canal,

D D, Different Cavities of the Tumour.

E E E E, External view of the Tumour.

F F F, Spermatic cord, the diameter of which is 3 inches.

G G, Cuts resulting from the incisions.

H H, Glandulous portion of the Tunica Vaginalis.

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## INTRODUCTION.

THE observations which I have published, concerning the Sarcocele of *Charles Delacroix*, having met with the full approbation of the Friends of Humanity, I have endeavoured to render that little work still more interesting, and accordingly have prefixed to it an Engraving of that wonderful tumour.

Previously to my making the same public, I presented it to the *Institut National*, together with the original tumour, in order that an undeniable and everlasting evidence might exist of the accuracy with which the artists have copied that extraordinary production.

I would have wished to publish both objects at the same time ; but the proceedings of the graver are slow ; and I have accordingly been prevented gratifying the eager wish of several Naturalists, who had expressed an ardent desire of seeing them united in one and the same work.

To the above extraordinary accident in Nature, I have added the history and engraven description of another phenomenon, which, although short of being equally interesting, nevertheless will prove what expectations may be indulged, in the most extraordinary diseases, from the resources of Surgery.

No author, either ancient or modern, has recorded any instance of the kind. Citizen *Perier de Gurat*, who had been affected with it for about twelve years, had borne it, with excruciating pain, during that long period, merely because the surgeons of Angoulême, deeming the success of an unknown operation very uncertain, were satisfied with using the ligature, which is most generally either ineffective or dangerous.

The diseases of the face have ever been reckoned of a very serious nature. Violent inflammations, hemorrhages, carcinomas, cancers, or the extreme difficulty of seeing the teguments meet to form a good cicatrice, are the inconveniences which have been apprehended to follow the operations on that delicate part.

The success of the operation performed upon Citizen *Perier*, will be a great encouragement, under this point of view: the facility with which his cure was completed, has left us nothing to wish for.

The steel, therefore, when directed by skilful experience, is as yet the most valuable present which nature has received from the Art of Healing.

Together with the advantage of removing the effects and causes of the malady from the injured part, it combines that of accomplishing easily the most difficult operations.

The incisions which are unavoidable, give much less pain, and heal more readily than we are apt to think.

Yet, if it be true that a surgeon, who uses his instruments with equal skill and success, is entitled to public gratitude, still greater honour is reflected upon him, when he can cure his patient without having recourse to those violent measures.

Men suffer patiently, but dread pain; and the sight of their blood streaming, is a more frightful spectacle to them than death, which they defy.

Woe to him, who, in the exercise of a precious art, would keep his heart shut against this truth.



## ADDITIONAL REFLECTIONS

*On the Disease of CHARLES DELACROIX, communicated to the  
INSTITUT NATIONAL, on the 1st Nivose, Anno 8, (21st  
December, 1799). By Citizen IMBERT DELONNES.*

WHEN I published in the month of Frimaire, Anno 6, (Nov. 1797,) the operation which I had performed 27th Fructidor, Anno 5, (14th September, 1797,) upon *Charles Delacroix*, Ex-Minister of the Foreign Relations, he was completely cured.

However I was still unable to guarantee the consequences that might occur after a malady, which surgeons and physicians of great eminence, had declared to be beyond the reach of the healing art.

But now that my former patient has been, for seven and twenty months uninterruptedly, in a state of good health, which speaks a radical cure; now that without the assistance of either an issue, a blister, or any other remedy whatever, *Charles Delacroix* enjoys, at sixty years of age, all those advantages which he was possessed of at forty, I think it becomes materially important to resume the subject of an operation, the happy success of which has justified an undertaking which criticism had deemed rash.

With a view of rendering the said operation more universally useful, I have caused the tumour, which was the object of it, to be engraved.

By this means, the most interesting phenomenon that ever existed in the animal kingdom, may be easily transmitted to the inhabitants of both hemispheres, and procure to them the benefits attending the progress of Surgery in France.

However, before my presenting the Engraving to the public, I thought it my duty to pay that homage to the members of the *Institut National*, and at the same time to offer the original tumour to their inspection, which, owing to its shape and volume, could afford a still more interesting spectacle.

*Dionis*, in his Treatise on Chirurgical Operations, mentions a monstrous large Sarcocoele, with which a poor beggar was afflicted at Pondichery in 1710.

If *Masurez*, a Jesuit, who has written an incorrect history of this latter tumour, the only one that bears any resemblance to that of *Charles Delacroix*, may be credited, it was fifteen inches long, and three feet three inches in circumference.

Surgery had attacked it twice, but with such inconsiderable force, as not to check its progress.

We would have wished that the historian, with farther accuracy, had informed us of the origin, progress and issue of that wonderful disease.

Another Sarcocoele, though of a much smaller volume, occasioned the death of a young negro from Martinique in May 1768.

He had been brought to Paris by Captain *Tessier*, who commanded *La Gracieuse*, there to claim the assistance of Surgery.

But, notwithstanding the art shone, at that period, in all its lustre, notwithstanding several men of distinguished abilities were reckoned amongst its practitioners, the disease was declared incurable, at a meeting held in a house of reception for the treatment of extraordinary diseases, belonging to the *ci-devant Académie de Chirurgie*.

To the above anecdote, which I heard from Rear Admiral *Latouche*, I must add that this young negro who had undertaken a long voyage, which tore him away from the object of his most tender affections, in hopes of being cured, fell as if thunderstruck, upon

being apprized that all the efforts of Surgery were incapable of affording him any relief.

If the skilful Surgeons who presided at the consultation, had been daring enough to try a similar operation to that which I performed thirty years after, I will make bold to affirm, that the success of their attempt would have saved the lives of a considerable number of individuals, who have perished amidst the agonies of excruciating pain.

In the description of *Charles Delacroix's* disease, my Readers may have observed that the spermatic cord, or pedicle of the Tumour, was ten inches in circumference, and that the Sarcocèle itself was very much like that of Pondichery : but, they may have noticed likewise, that that prodigious large volume, in which the other parts of generation lay confounded, had not shaken my belief of succeeding in the operation, though ever so laborious.

However, I must confess that, as I had never performed a like operation, I was far from thinking it would require two hours and an half : and that although I was sensible of the necessity of using great caution, and of allowing the patient some moments' rest, it would have been difficult for me to foresee that I should be necessitated to interrupt the course of the operation four different times, in order thus to maintain the tonic action, or the continuity of existence.

The powers of a man, especially when his disease is local, have never been calculated : a work upon this subject would be of infinite value. But, if it be true that a man can resist for a great number of years, to the dreadful diseases which devour his very substance, such for instance as those parasitical excrescences, those tumours of two hundred pounds weight, as that, the history of which may be found in the *Ephemerides* of Germany, for

the year 1692, why should he want powers to bear those operations, of which he claims the assistance against an oppressive enemy?

The great successes that have been obtained from the cæsarian operation performed several times upon the same person; from the excision of a considerable part of the brains, in consequence of wounds in the head, without occasioning any accident; from the cure of wounds in the lungs, diaphragm, stomach, intestines, and even the heart; are so many peremptory proofs of the resources of nature.

If we listen to the voice of that protecting Deity, which the father of Medicine has always faithfully re-echoed; or at least been an ingenious interpreter of, it will inform us that ever favourable to him who invokes her, a Medical man, endowed with courage and genius, may venture to make every attempt in the case of a rebellious malady: *Ad morbos extremos, extrema remedia.*

*Hippocrates* recommends us to use violent measures to oppose serious maladies; neither does *Celsus* apprehend carrying matters too far, when he prescribes, imperatively, to use those measures, although they be doubtful: *Meliùs anceps remedium experiri, quàm nullum.*

But these great precepts have never been adhered to; and owing to pusillanimity, which however is not always to be ascribed to ignorance, numbers of unfortunate sufferers have been devoted to death, whose lives might have easily been saved, if the great resources of a salutary art, had been used seasonably.

The same effects have been frequently produced by an apprehension of exposing a well-established reputation, to uncertain success.



This last evil, which derives its source from the injustice exercised towards skilful Surgeons, who are made responsible for the consequences inseparable from their operations, is an enormous crime in the eye of the Philanthropist.

Such are the principles which I have imbibed, whilst reading the works of *Hyppocrates*, *Celsus*, *Petit*, *Pott*, and other deservedly illustrious authors.

In obedience to these principles, I have made it a law to perform the most difficult operations, whenever I have the least prospect of being successful: nay, I declare, that after having witnessed extraordinary diseases to have an happy issue contrary to my expectation, I shall ever feel extremely averse to call the like ones incurable.

That word, which has been abused so long, is shocking to humanity in distress; devoutly to be wished is its erasure from the dictionary of Medicine; Oh! that it could but be replaced by the four soothing ones: *labor improbus omnia vincit*; a maxim that becomes every art indiscriminately, and men of every description.

TO ALL  
STUDENTS  
IN THE ART OF HEALING.

TO you, Noble Pupils of all countries, of all climates, I dedicate my present work ; you will find it well calculated to promote your zeal, and redouble your application to a long and difficult Art.

Yours is a glorious career, if you do but run over it with that dignity which your fellow-creatures have a right to demand. Your aim is to fly to the assistance of the human species, and to cure their diseases : your aim stands foremost amongst those that are honourable ; and when you are preparing to make the first step towards gaining it, you are already entitled to public gratitude.

Be mindful especially to become conscious of the importance of your object ; and then you will be sensible to what a degree that particular inclination which is requisite for the success of your undertaking will raise.

Anatomy, that science which constitutes a part of Natural Philosophy, and at first is equally tedious and painful, is however the light of lights ; were it not for its aid, we should be reduced to follow a blind routine, and to commit the most horrid blunders.

You must therefore become skilful anatomists, to be duly qualified either to establish a just comparison between the parts that are injured and those that are sound, or to perform operations that require the most accurate precision in the management of the instrument that is used to complete them.

The Anatomy which I am speaking of, widely differs from that which curious men are taught by reading ; it is over dead bodies that you must become acquainted with, and reflect upon the minutest details. Those details, though ever so disgusting in the commencement, never fail to prove interesting in the end, to the laborious pupil, who acquiring by degrees the necessary knowledge, which the exercise of his art requires, has a near prospect of gaining the confidence of his fellow-citizens.

The study of Physics in general is no less indispensable ; the different branches of that science have immediate relations to our organs. Subjected to the laws of motion and of rest, we are a constant prey to the injury of the elements, which operate our destruction, at the same time that they abundantly supply us with the means of our improvement and reproduction.

As soon as you are versed in Anatomy and Physics, you may easily become acquainted with the nature of diseases, by attending the Great Masters, who will teach you the best precepts, either by taking you with them to visit their patients, or sometimes to those Theatres that have been opened for your instruction.

In order to become skilful and intelligent operators, you must practice long upon dead bodies, but be ever mindful to consider them as possessed of the most exquisite sensibility.

When you have acquired an intimate notion of your dexterity and steadiness in using the instrument, which can never be done without giving pain and provoking the groans of the unfortunate patient, then you will have conquered the privilege of performing upon the living ; but then again you must begin with easy operations, and under the inspection of an experienced master.

Thus by degrees you will get possession of the immense knowledge that has been hoarded up for you ; and as after having crossed

well-known countries, we discover others that were unknown, you may expect to create a new domain for Surgery; which no less than other sciences has always in reserve a barren field to be tilled by him who is animated by the love of study and of fame.

If amongst the most useful discoveries, we are indebted for a considerable number to fortunate accidents alone, there are many more still which are the offspring of profound study, persevering labour, repeated experiments, and above all, undaunted courage.

The Tumour which I am going to describe to you, is one of the most tremendous that ever was known; the most learned practitioners in the art of healing had deemed it incurable. But thirty years experience, and the particular study I had made of those maladies that attack the generative organs, had induced me to believe that it might be overcome, by the means of a long and spirited operation.

You will see, that in order to succeed more easily, I divided into five acts, the interval required for the manual part of my dreadful, at once, and prosperous operation, by which means the patient's powers were revived, and he enjoyed a little repose. Thus was the formidable giant whom I had to encounter, metamorphosed into a pigmy, whom I overpowered by dint of a new plan of attack; which will evince that the resources of Surgery are unlimited, when a true love of humanity inspires those who have devoted themselves to the practice of that Art.







*H. Vetter, sculp.*





A. Le Moine del.

R. Natter sculp.





# OPERATION

## OF A

# SARCOCELE,

*Performed upon Citizen CHARLES DELACROIX, Ex-Minister of the Exterior Relations, Plenipotentiary Minister from the French to the Batavian Republic; by Citizen IMBERT DELONNES, Surgeon, on the 27th Fructidor, Anno V. (13th September 1797.)*

HE who practises the Art of Healing, and tamely keeps within the limits of the servile performance of those operations alone that are universally known, renounces the glory of enriching and improving the most useful Art: he is sure of continuing in that state of inactivity which leaves a man far behind the aim which he ought incessantly to pursue; in short his passive pusillanimous existence, which frequently proceeds from the want of proper instruction, is by no means becoming an Artist.

Whereas he who strives to bring the Arts into perfection, is beloved by his cotemporaries, and cherished by posterity: he is the honour of the human species, in proportion as he multiplies the means of relieving their infirmities; in short he deserves well of his country.

The following observation will serve to corroborate the above assertions.

For about fourteen years, *Charles Delacroix* had been afflicted with a large Sarcocoele, in the left testicle. The various remedies that had been indicated to him had proved inadequate to checking the progress of the disease. This enormous Tumour, which weighed about thirty-two pounds, \* was more projecting and bigger than the belly of a woman on the point of being brought to bed. It was entirely wrapped up in the scrotum, and neighbouring teguments, to the prejudice of all the generative organs which had totally disappeared.

It was seated more on the left than on the right side ; in the shape of a rounded irregular heart, the basis of which inclined to the right, and lay on the abdomen and thigh, on the same side. Its point was directed along the left thigh ; its length fourteen inches † nearly, and its height in the center ten. The spermatic cord, extended in like manner with the testis, formed the pedicle of the Tumour, and seemed to be propagated over the hypogastriac region, the pubis, the perineum and anus.

Such was the situation of Citizen *Delacroix*, when he wished to have a meeting of eight Surgeons, in whom he thought he could repose unlimited confidence. Each individual having duly examined the case, and the patient having withdrawn, a majority of seven against one, gave in their opinion, that the Tumour was one amongst those that had been described under the pusillanimous and barbarous denomination of *noli me tangere*. It was pronounced *untouchable*. It was to be respected ; it must infallibly oppress the unfortunate

\* It is supposed the Sarcocoele was of 32 lb. weight to the patient ; for having weighed it two hours after the operation, when it had disgorged itself, the weight of it then was 28lb. (French weight).

† French Measurement.

sufferer who claimed the aid of Art to subdue it ; in short that it must kill him was unavoidable.

I happened to be the eighth Surgeon who had been called to the consultation, and thought I could perceive that the cutting instrument might be of essential service in a similar occurrence. I delivered my opinion ; but it appeared so strange, that it was hardly listened to. According to some of those gentlemen, it would cast an *opprobrium* upon *Surgery*. In vain did I bring forth *Celsus's* aphorism : *Meliùs anceps remedium experiri, quàm nullum* : the patient, said they, must submit to bear his painful existence to the end, which an operation could only tend to abridge. In vain did I enquire upon what authority they were so positive with regard to the impotence of *Surgery*, the tortures and final dissolution of the wretched being who had solicited our meeting ; my reclamation proved sterile ; and like an actor who is untimely obstinate in the support of a nonsensical play, I was left alone on the stage.

I might have suffered myself to be prevailed upon to join in the general opinion, had I not frequently witnessed that one single man has the good fortune to meet with a truth which escapes from the multitude ; and that through a fatality which is attached to the human species, the reputation of two or three individuals who are thought infallible, oftentimes suffices to draw a whole assembly into the grossest and most pernicious error.

I therefore had judged that Citizen *Delacroix* might be rescued from the dreadful disease which threatened his life. Nothing of what had been urged to me respecting the ideal impossibility of curing him, was adequate to altering the opinion which I had expressed with a kind of premature conviction, which prompts man to undertake the most difficult enterprises. On the other hand, the patient felt an extreme desire of obtaining the good effects of the

operation I had proposed ; and in order to convince him that my opinion was the result of my studies, labour and observations, I invited him first to peruse my *Treatise on the Diseases of Men* ; I next introduced him to several individuals whom I had cured of diseases that affected the organs of generation.

Thus to conquer the entire confidence of him whose health is impaired, is one of the preliminary acts which a surgeon ought never to lose sight of ; it influences most materially the success of a serious operation : it has a most positive effect upon the mind ; and it is well known what power the mind exercises over the body, especially when the latter has been labouring under circumstances similar to those which had harrassed my patient. From my lips alone he had heard those soothing words, *I will cure you* ; whereas all whom he had consulted for about fourteen years, had constantly repeated to him in doleful language : *Our Art can yield you no relief ; suffer in silence, and die in peace.*

*Charles Delacroix* consequently remained exposed to the unrelenting outrages of an enemy, which uninterruptedly annoyed him : the Tumour increased slowly, but it degenerated in several parts.\* I alone had caused the sweetest hope of being delivered from the attack of a powerful foe, to dawn before his eyes ; and he seized it with undaunted courage, notwithstanding the general opinion, and in defiance of the forerunning apparatus of pain. Thus will a man possessed of genius calculate every circumstance, and finally discover the only resources that are left for him in the most critical conjunc-

\* An anatomical examination of different incisions performed upon the Tumour, which was already carcinomatous, evinced that the patient would not have lived six months, if he had been given up to the resources of nature, almost always insufficient in Chirurgical diseases.



tures. He had been taught by *Montaigne*, that we ought not to fear death, *but the dying*.\*

In consequence of *Charles Delacroix*'s fixed determination, I prescribed for him low diet during the course of ten days; and on the 27th Fructidor last (13th September) in the presence of Citizens *Monier, Duchanoi, Guillemardet, Collet, Coecou, and Poissons*, all of them Surgeons, I proceeded to the actual performance of my intended operation, by opening the Tumour in its whole extent, and following the direction of the spermatic cord; then after separating the Tumour from the integuments at the breadth of five fingers, I plunged my knife into one of the points that seemed to contain a particular kind of fluid. However from a thorough conviction that the disease was a combination of adipose and schirrous glands, that had organised themselves around the injured testicle, I dissected it completely, so conscious was I of there being no other method of succeeding.

This very long and painful operation was performed *in five times*: this was a measure dictated by prudence and necessity: each interval which lasted seven or eight minutes, interrupted the sufferings of the patient; who by dint of experiencing some relief, felt his organs to resume sufficient powers to bear the operation to an end.

The dissection of a Tumour of that magnitude cannot be accomplished properly without practising several flaps in the integuments. The surface of the present one was surrounded with arteries and

\* The Abbé de Flamarens, brother to the late Bishop of Perigueux, and to the Marquis de Flamarens, Great Master of the Wolf Hunters of France, who had an Hydrosarcocele of about two pounds weight, died in the midst of the most excruciating torture, which he had suffered during a very long period. I was the only surgeon of opinion to amputate the Tumour, but the majority carried it. See my *Treatise on the diseases of Men*. Page 355.

veins, which were to remain untouched in some respects, in order to prevent violent hæmorrhages. A tela cellulosa, loose in some parts and very tight in a great many others, especially near the *rapha*, presented a dissection sometimes very difficult, at other times very easy to perform. The right testis as also the corpora cavernosa, and the urethra were adherent to the mass which required a long labour to be extirpated. The penis was deprived of the covering which is supplied by the prolongation of the teguments in mass. This covering being absolutely become that of the Tumour, instead of the penis and right testis, only exhibited a second navel, through which the patient let water, by means of a small funnel-like conductor, which being applied very close to the aforesaid navel, prevented the urine from running over the Tumour, or his cloths.

Therefore, besides the generative organs which were adherent to, and confounded with the Tumour, I had also to preserve that portion of the integuments, which prior to the disease had belonged to those same organs. It was also requisite that, subsequent to the extirpation of the Tumour, those integuments should be immediately applied over those surfaces that were become foreign to them, and that they should resume at once their former shapes and original rights.

The second navel, which I have mentioned above, served me as point of reunion ; I was to find it at the extremity of the urethra. It was still adherent to the basis of the glans, which being oppressed and haled about no less than all the other parts, was become more slender and increased in length.

I was not far from concluding my operation the manual part of which lasted two hours and an half (the intervals included) when I had isolated the Tumour, and lay aside those parts that were to be preserved perfect and entire. But I had still to encounter a pedicle dreadful indeed, either on account of its bulk, or of the difficulty

of applying a ligature to it without danger. It was nearly ten inches in circumference : I was under an apprehension that the nervous and membraneous parts which entered into its contexture, could not be subjected to a strong compression, without the intervening of acute pain in the loins and entrails, of convulsions, and cramps, which accidents often become mortal.

It became necessary therefore on the one hand to use a ligature, loose enough to prevent those accidents ; whilst on the other I must indispensably oppose an efficacious powerful dike to the vessels, which, destined to nourish so voluminous a foreign body, had acquired additional diameter and thickness in their tubes, equally degenerated with all the other parts.

I succeeded in this double pursuit by means of using several ligatures, and fastening the last I applied somewhat tighter than the others. I practised the first in the most neighbouring part to that which I was to cut off : then I made three more, gradually drawing nearer to the pedicle : the waxed threads which I used presented a flat surface about two lines wide.

Next, the Tumour that was carried off with the knife left a wound, the irregular surface of which might be compared to a large plate. I covered nearly the whole of the wound with part of the flaps I had retained, beginning by the neighbouring parts to the ligature. From thence I proceeded to the penis, which had been dissected and uncovered to the basis of the glans ; next, to the sound testicle, the septum of which, as also the fibres of the dartos had been destroyed as far as the tunica vaginalis. To each of these organs I procured the covering they stood in need of. But I had still a vast quantity of useless skin left, which I cut off with a pair of straight scissars : this instrument which is not so good as the knife in numbers of cases, is preferable however in the present case, in as much as it cuts



with greater precision, provided you procure a prop over the part you wish to cover again with accuracy ; besides the healing is more easily completed, and no deformity will ensue.

The operation being ended, the wound was covered with dry lint in great profusion, in order that the pressure of the dressing might be at once gentle yet sufficient. The patient, when carried into his bed, was perfectly calm, after having vomited twice in the space of half an hour, to rid his stomach of a little crust of bread and a small glass of canary wine, which he had taken during the operation. During the interval of the two vomitings, he experienced slight faintings, which I had succeeded in preventing in the course of the operation, by means of the aforesaid interruptions.

The vomiting was occasioned by the continuity of the pain which cannot but suspend the functions of the stomach ; perhaps even by the patient changing his position and moving from the scene of the operation into his bed.

However he afterwards underwent no painful sensation either in his loins or entrails, which appeared to me a very extraordinary circumstance, since neither mental or bodily strength can exempt from encountering those accidents which will almost always happen in great operations, when the spermatic cord is concerned, and especially when the amputation of that cord takes place.

The mental fortitude which *Charles Delacroix* displayed in his cruel position, deservedly procured to him that ease or calmness which he enjoyed before, during, and after the operation : the good effects attending that calmness are innumerable. To this same calmness may likewise be attributed the rare and precious advantage of having been free from the slightest fever during the course of his cure, the periods of which succeeded each other with wonderful rapidity.



During the first four and twenty hours after the operation, a large quantity of reddish lymph issued from the wound, the colour of which was paler on the second day. On the third day it grew still whiter, but still very plentiful, and had a sanious putrescent smell, as when, in great operations, the change of the dressing is delayed. This however was changed on the third day, which was two or three days sooner than I generally allow after operations on the generative organs. The presence of the matter that issues from those kinds of wounds during the first days, is an excellent topic which must be left on the diseased part, *pus purem generat*: it aids nature to fetch forth suppuration, which is of the greatest importance; and is not to be intercepted but in cases of absolute necessity, and for causes that afterwards turn to its greater advantage.

The theory of dressings should be submitted to new observations; modern Surgery ought to make a particular study of this essential part of the Art of healing. The application of various unguents has not been duly censured; most of them are at least useless for large wounds, when the suppuration is abundant: in the present instance I have only used lint in profusion.

The manual part of those capital operations, which at first appear very difficult to a young practitioner, becomes quite easy for him who, in addition to the knowledge of his Art, is endowed with those qualifications that are requisite to exercise it with honour. In the mean time there exists another Art equally interesting, subsequent to the operation, namely that of leading your patient to a speedy cure, and at the same time securing him against all fatal consequences: this latter Art, which must be an emanation of the former, can be acquired only by experience and meditation.

The disease of *Charles Delacroix*, being one of the most extraordinary phenomena in nature, besides the means of curing, it was

necessary I should *create* those of supplying my patient with the faculties he had been deprived of ever since the organs which the operation had restored, had entirely disappeared : I must also keep away the fatal and sometimes mortal accidents, such as gangrene, eschars, abscesses, great inflammations, &c. I succeeded by prescribing a strict diet for the three first days, and in taking off the first dressing a little sooner than I had done in other circumstances ; next I replaced some of the flaps that were not in their proper place.

The decoction of bark has been highly serviceable to procure that degree of a good suppuration, which secures the healing of the most serious wounds. Twice a day I used lotions of bark ; I have even overspread the whole surface twice with powder of bark, and the good effects I have reaped from it, induce me to pay a due tribute of praise to all those who in imitation of Doctor *Pringle*, and Doctor *Lagarraze*, have brought it into credit. I had felt repeated temptations to administer it internally during the first days that followed the operation ; but I had to deal with a strong constitution, which I might have weakened if the bark had become laxative, as is often the case.

In fact, a suppuration, of the best kind, and which was established so early as the fifth day, has evinced that I needed not to recur to stimulating applications, in order to facilitate that crisis.

At that same period I suppressed one half of the ligatures ; I would even have removed them all, had not those that remained opposed violent obstacles which I was unable to surmount at that moment.

These obstacles proceeded from the suppuration of the pedicle not having been considerable enough in all its points, to diminish the volume, and annul the effect of the ligatures : however, the abundant

suppuration of the whole wound, caused them to cease on the tenth day. I now found myself capacitated to suppress all the ligatures. The better to succeed, I used a small blunted silver hook: with this kind of an erigna which I directed from downwards above, I seized the threads, separated them from the pedicle by pulling gently towards me, and then cut them off with curved scissars. On the same day I retrenched some small portions of the lips of the wound that were neighbouring to the pedicle, and which extending too far, and being rather hard, would have impeded the completion of the cure. From that time the wound most conspicuously began to cicatrize. The patient, who got out of his bed at the expiration of a month, was able to walk on the fortieth day, and his cure was finally completed on the sixtieth.

As the want of food is almost always expressed by the desire of the patient, you need not fear to allow him a small quantity; if he is free from fever or inflammation: his prevailing weakness is the consequence of the waste inseparable from great operations. This waste is to be supplied by degrees, and with extreme caution: in those first moments especially laborious digestions are to be dreaded: they certainly would be productive of serious accidents such as fevers, congestions, abscesses, &c. It would be equally dangerous to leave the patient to be a prey to the real want of nourishment: he then would experience the inverse accidents, such as heated intestines, inanition-fever, marasmus, &c. By means of consulting the pulse, we are taught how to keep that *nice medium* in chirurgical as well as internal diseases. The pulsations, when weak and slow, claim aliments easily to be digested, such as broth, with the grease carefully taken off, to which may be added soon after, a small quantity of rice flower, even of rice, vermicelli, and other ingredients of the like nature.



*Charles Delacroix* for the three first days subsequent to the operation had no other nourishment than sugar and water; then about a middling size tea cup full of broth, with the grease taken off. By degrees I allowed him to take a larger quantity, when I was fully satisfied he would be exempt from the suppuration fever, that is to say on the fifth day. He then was permitted to eat a rice porridge, next two or three in a day, but always in a small quantity at a time, merely to supply the real wants of the stomach. I cannot repeat it too often, the inconveniences of rich diet must ever be the constant object of our attention; those inconveniences will become striking, if you do but reflect that *Charles Delacroix* had no longer to supply with nutriment that truly parasitical production, well calculated to promote the astonishment of the most learned Naturalists, likewise that of all such as after having read the history of it, may wish to take a view of its bulk, shape, and weight, in the immense glass vessel in which it is enclosed.

After operations of the kind, it is advisable therefore to be on your guard against a new error of nature, which might affect some other either internal or external part, by supplying the vessels with that quantity of nutritive juice which they really are in want of: thus sobriety, which becomes all men indiscriminately, must be the safest preventive, either during the cure, or after its completion; together with a moderate use of all human gratifications, agreeable to the aphorism of the God of Medicine: *cibus, potus, motus, somnus, Venus et omnia moderatè sumantur*.

Some medical men have given in their opinion that after a similar disease *Charles Delacroix* ought to have an issue; but his vigorous healthy constitution imposed upon me a severe law of dispensing with that preventive, which I consider at least as superfluous.



Human nature is supported in a miraculous manner, as we may perceive by penetrating into the organs that constitute its frail existence; and this truth which we have continually at hand indicates how cautiously remedies are to be used.

The exact order of the integral parts of the human frame, which speak a perfect state of health, appears chimerical to the eye of some few observers. The springs that give motion to those parts, being subjected to mechanical laws, incessantly tend to desorganisation; and under this point of view, the man whose special charge it is to preserve his fellow-creatures, must examine with the most scrupulous attention whether, whilst endeavouring to check *evil*, by using measures, the effects of which have not been properly investigated, he does not counteract the laws of *good*. But with regard to issues, I think it is my duty to observe, that upon several occasions I have reaped great benefit by suppressing them.

That mode of curing, like many more that have been extolled too high, is pregnant with more inconveniences than advantages: it requires therefore being kept within assigned limits; if it is not finally proscribed.

If reformatations are occasionally admissible in the body politic, the arts and sciences likewise are sometimes in want of the same. These are ever the result of study, labour, and experience.

If the Collossean statue of prejudice may be attacked with some advantage, its opponent must prove some useful truth which is sure of defeating error.

The operation which I am now treating of is an undeniable proof of the above assertion. The most renowned amongst my Brethren, and an infinite number of others of less repute, thought it impracticable and void.

Their error originated in prejudice ; their error now has vanished ; for we must yield to evidence.

I am happy to think that they will witness ungalled my having extended the sphere of our Art beyond their expectations, instead of embracing their opinion, which tended to contract it.

If I had the misfortune to meet amongst the number some of those whimsical, odd Pyrrhonians, who deny every thing, who depreciate every thing, who calumniate every thing, then I would say that it is a difficult matter to bring good forward.\*

Thus did *Ambrose Paré*,† the beloved of the French Army, meet amongst his cotemporaries and even disciples, detractors of his ingenious method of stopping hæmorrhages ; and his precepts on the ligature of arteries, were only put in practice one hundred years after his death.

Thus was the immortal *Harvey* exposed (but to his greater honour,) to the lampoons, and treacherous persecutions of his fellow practitioners, when towards the middle of the last century he published his discovery of the circulation of the blood, which afterwards placed him in the temple of Fame.

\* A Pamphlet has been published already, wherein it is said that Charles Delacroix's Tumour being adepose, it was not so difficult to cure it. Those Detractors ought to have known, that the different Tumours that affect the human species, are either osseous, glandulous, adepose, schirrous, aqueous, &c. &c. and never carnous, as the red and fibrous part of the muscles.

*La critique est aisée, et l'art est difficile.*

Boileau.

† Ambrose Paré, chief Surgeon of Charles IX. was saved from the massacre in Paris, by that fanatical Monarch, who concealed him in his wardrobe. This celebrated man was beloved by the French army: his presence alone, which revived the courage of the combatants, saved the city of Metz, that was besieged by a formidable force of Imperialists.

Thus, notwithstanding my repeated successes in curing radically the hydrocele, by the means of a Method which I published in 1785, I never saw but two of my pupils who would adopt my precepts relative to that essential point of Surgery. Yet there are numbers of certificates extant of the cures I have performed in Military hospitals, in Paris, and in several of the principal towns in France, under the eyes of the most learned Surgeons, who have witnessed upon every occasion the salutary effects of that operation.\*

However Truth, which always turns to the advantage of the Arts, must finally pierce through the thickest clouds ; which motive has induced me to make public an event, the minutest details of which I have carefully collected, because they are all interesting, and that each of them may open a new road to him who, ever engaged in stretching forth a succouring hand to Humanity in distress, will discharge his duty with that sagacity which in the most trying circumstances, points out to what a farther degree the limits of Surgery may be extended.

This new operation therefore, together with the discoveries of *Harvey* and of *Paré* is entitled to a place in the records of French Medicine.

The enormity of the Tumour, its great age, and complication, its adherence with the most sensible organs, assign to it a distin-

\* My *Treatise on the Diseases of Men* was welcomed by the *Académie des Sciences* of Montpellier, who unanimously appointed me their Correspondent in 1791. At that same period Mr. *Andouillet*, a Member of the *Académie des Sciences* of Paris made a very unfavourable and splenetic report of the said work. Nevertheless I had cured radically Messrs. *Bougainville* and *Legendre*, (both essential members of that Institution), of an hydrocele that had been declared incurable; and of course had reason to expect some regard from that *Académie* but Mr. *Andouillet* was chief Surgeon to Louis XVI. and I chief Surgeon only to the first Prince of the blood.



guished rank amongst the most curious phenomena that ever existed in the different kingdoms of Natural History.

Alone of my opinion in this metropolis, where, as to the temple of Epidaurus, people resort in crouds from all parts of the world, to implore the help of the Art of Healing, I have dared to attack the hydra of prejudice with that courage which victory delights in crowning.

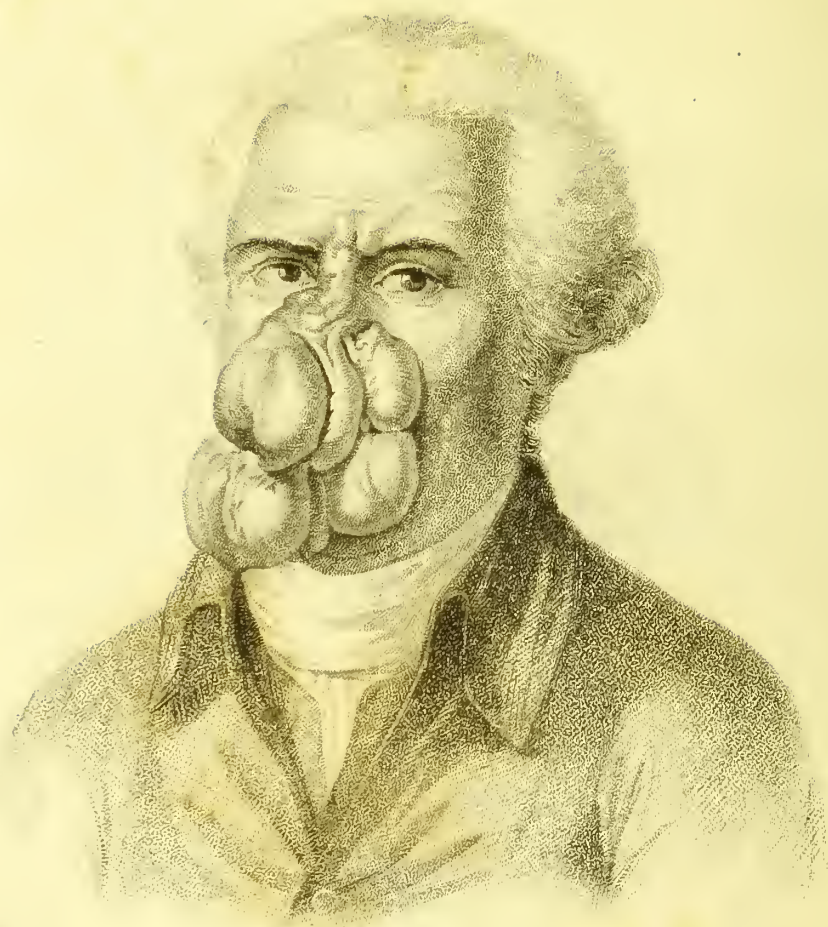
The undertaking was bold, I avow, since one single disease of the kind, the treatment of which has not yet been described, offered only a very uncertain prognostic. But a long experience of the human diseases seemed to portend a favourable issue: and when it will be considered from the nature of the Tumour, that he who laboured under it, had nothing but approaching death to look up to, I think I am entitled to thanks for having proved, by saving his life, that the resources of our Art are immense, and that when seconded by study and guided by prudence, that divine Art \* has powers to remedy the most dreadful errors of Nature.

\* *Ars medica & divinitus accepta est, & divinitus exercetur. Nonne Raphaellem archangelum Hebraei volunt hujus artis opus exercuisse! Mittamus reliquos, &c.*

Marsilii Ficini, Liber I.

F I N I S.





After the original

After the original



## OPERATION

*Performed on the 16th Brumaire, Anno VII. (6th November, 1798)  
on Citizen PERIER DE GURAT, late Mayor of the City of Angoulême, by Citizen IMBERT DELONNES.*

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THE anatomical preparations of the skin, by shewing its intimate relations with our organs, teach us how that essential part of the human body, is exposed to infinite numbers of diseases.

When the animal œconomy is disordered by a humoral vice, the skin then experiences the effects of an explosion, which is known to be the last period of the crisis.

The same effects are produced by the divagation of the fluids, which being no longer subjected to the laws of hydraulics, and yielding to the power of resistance, fix themselves upon one particular part, after having taken possession of the so numerous matrices of the tela celullosa.

This theory, together with that of the lymphatic or albuginous substances which constitute an integral part of our humours, explains the origin and progress of humours in general.

Those, which I am going to speak, of take their source in the sebaceous glands or in the miliary glands that are so numerous beneath the skin, and espceially at that part of the face which certain Anatomists have called the Chapter of the Nose.

Those Tumours begin in a swelling at that part, which, after having slowly raised the skin, forms several semi-spherical bodies on its surface.

This kind of eruption, which is not uncommon, and has been wrongfully attributed to the immoderate use of drinking, does not generally exceed a deformity, of which we have seen a striking instance in Mr. *Metra*, the News-monger of the Tuileries.

But the case is very different, when, owing to an extraordinary event, the principles of that original eruption give alimony to the disease: those bodies then increase, and soon after form distinct Tumours, which organize themselves, and assume the character of a Sarcoma.

The fluids which supply them, being then more abundant, are converted into more or less solid substances: their volume increasing continually, clogs the vital functions, and Art alone can remedy those dangerous wanderings of Nature.

Such have been the origin and progress of the Sarcomas of Citizen *Perier de Gurat*, late Mayor of the City of Angoulême, aged 59, a very sober man, who enjoyed a perfect state of health.

Those very prominent Tumours were elastic, though compact, and weighed about two pounds; they occupied the external surface of the nose, and extended, without any adherence whatever, over the buccinator muscle, and the chin, which they screened almost entirely; closing hermetically the nostrils and the mouth.

In order to breathe or to speak, Citizen *Perier* was obliged to lean down his head forward, so as to see no other prospect but the ground. When he wanted to eat or drink, he lifted up, but always with great difficulty, heavy masses which seemed to forbid him the use of food and drink. In order to enjoy the sweets of sleep, or to procure that pleasing calmness of repose which is

found so delightful in an horizontal position, he affixed a sling to his nightcap, by means of which he isolated, by hanging it up, an enemy that would have suffocated him, had he not used that precaution.

From the above true picture of the sorrowful existence of Citizen *Perier*, it will be easy to conceive that he was deprived of that exquisite enjoyment which lasts as long as a man's life, enjoyment of all ages, that adds to the felicity of love which it creates, and is equally precious to tender friendship.

This dreadful malady which had rendered Citizen *Perier's* aspect so hideous, that he durst not appear before the eyes of his best friends, had broke out nearly twelve years before I performed the operation that cured him.

The progress of his disease had been very rapid during two and twenty months confinement in the tower of Angoulême, under the tyranny of *Robespierre*.

The unwholesome air of a close dungeon, bad food, and above all the gloomy ideas that the prospect of approaching death will suggest, had undoubtedly contributed much to that monstrous vegetation.

Citizen *Robin Sen.* a Surgeon of Angoulême, had tried to cure, or at least to render less dangerous, those Tumours which daily threatened the patient with a carcinoma, or with an apoplectic fit.

In order to accomplish this laudable plan, he had used a ligature : but the pain and inflammation, general consequences attending that weak measure, soon obliged him to relinquish it.

In answer to a letter of consultation, I informed Citizen *Perier*, I thought advisable he should come to Paris, which he did ; and after having examined the Tumours with great attention, I was



conscious of the urgent necessity of using the cutting instrument to destroy them.

Citizens *Sabatier* and *Pelletan*, Members of the *Institut National*, to whom I shall seize every opportunity of giving a public testimony of my esteem, having each of them been consulted separately, were of my opinion, and encouraged my hopes of succeeding in the operation, which I performed on the 17th Brumaire, Anno VII. (7th November, 1798.)

The dissection requisite for the extirpation of those sarcomas, laid bare the whole external surface of the nose, from its basis to the membrana pituitaria that unites with its different cartilages.

This was an indispensable precaution; the Tumours occupied at least five sixths of that surface; and if I had left one single part of the skin, that was all over bloated and strewed with those same glands that had occasioned those extraordinary Tumours, perhaps I would have had to lament their speedy and active reproduction.

Several small arteries supplied by the labial artery, by the ophthalmic or sub-orbitaris, were open in the course of the dissection, which lasted two and twenty minutes; but the temporary compression of the fingers of my assistant, and afterwards the dressing, opposed new hæmorrhages.

Notwithstanding the parts concerned were neighbouring the duramater which lines the orbits; notwithstanding those parts constitute a main portion of an organ, which, its nerves, and sympathy with the surrounding organs, render very tender, nevertheless, during the first four and twenty hours, no other accident intervened but slight convulsive motions in the muscles of the face.

The first dressing was taken off on the day subsequent to the

operation, on account of its being out of its place, and that same day the patient was able to get up and to write.

The suppuration was established, without any fever, on the fifth day. The cure was completed on the fortieth.

My extreme surprise at the sight of a disease which appeared to me to be a monstrosity, inspired me with a desire to keep a curious copy of it in my study; Citizen *Bose*, an artist in high repute for taking a good likeness, condescended to draw my patient's picture on the day that preceded the operation.

I then caused an engraving of it to be made by Citizen *Godefroi*, who is likewise an eminent artist. This precaution I have deemed very useful to the progress of the Art of Healing, since it will multiply in favour of the Pupils of all countries, a memorable evidence of its powerful resources.

I would have wished that Citizen *Perrier* had been portrayed, after having recovered his natural state, that he might be seen such as he is fourteen months after his perfect cure, but circumstances would not permit. Let it suffice that my readers be informed, with all who know him, that without the least deformity, he has resumed his former face, and that, to use his own expressions, *I have restored him to human shape, which he had lost*, by performing an operation which no author had ever described.

## F I N I S.

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